



Shringabhuja

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Based on a story from the Kathasaritsagara



Amar Chitra Katha

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Shringabhuja

Shringabhuja is a story from the Kathasaritsagara, a Sanskrit classic of the eleventh century, written by Somadeva. Prince Shringabhuja, the hero, in search of his father's golden arrow comes across a demoness Rupashikha. She falls in love with him and decides to help him. The result is a fascinating blend of the world of men and the world of demons, in which fantasy, adventure and romance hold the reader enthralled.

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Shringabhujā



KING VIRABHUJA OF VARDHAMANA RULED
OVER A FLOURISHING KINGDOM OF
HAPPY SUBJECTS SECURE IN THE
KNOWLEDGE OF A WISE AND JUST RULE.

THE KING HAD A HUNDRED WIVES, OF WHOM GUNAVARA WAS THE CHIEF QUEEN. THE KING WAS CHILDLESS, AND FELT UNHAPPY ABOUT IT.

I WORRY ABOUT MY KINGDOM. WHO WILL INHERIT IT?

IT IS A PITY, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT NOT ONE OF YOUR HUNDRED WIVES HAS BEEN ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN HEIR.



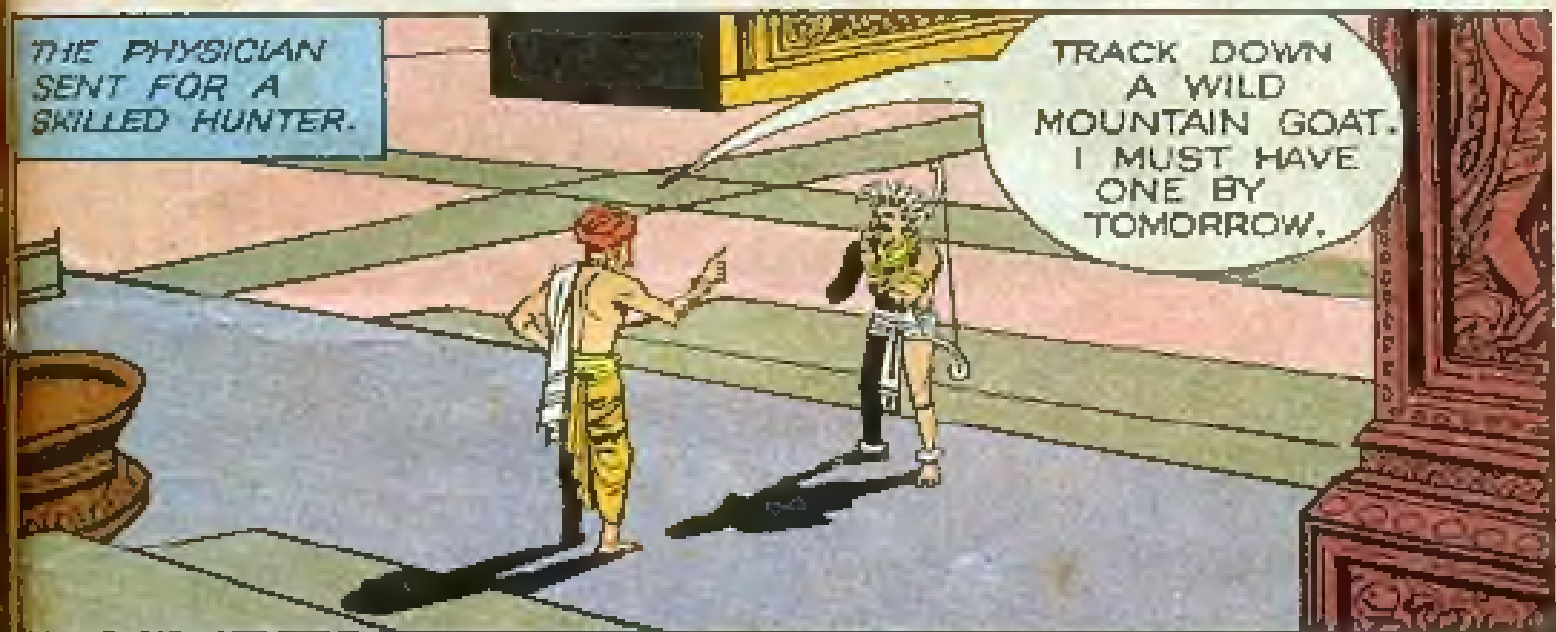
I CARE LITTLE ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT I WISH YOU...

IT IS GOD'S WILL, MY LORD.

THE KING, HOWEVER, DID NOT RESIGN HIMSELF TO FATE. HE SENT FOR THE COURT PHYSICIAN.

YOU KNOW WHAT IS TROUBLING ME. IS THERE NO WAY?

THERE IS, YOUR MAJESTY.



THE QUEENS ASSEMBLED IN THE ROYAL DINING HALL. AVASOLEKHA, ONE OF THE QUEENS, NOTICED THAT GUNAVARA WAS NOT THERE.



GOOD. I HOPE SHE ARRIVES LATE. IF SHE HAS A SON, OUR CHILDREN DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

THE PHYSICIAN ANNOUNCED-



MY BREW IS READY!

THE PRIEST PRONOUNCED THE BLESSINGS...



ALL YOU QUEENS OF VIRABHUA- MAY YOU BEAR HIM SPLENDID SONS!

...AND THE QUEENS DRANK UP THE MAGIC POTION.



JUST AS THE LAST CUP
HAD BEEN DRAINED—

QUEEN
GUNAVARA!
HOW COULD
WE HAVE
OVERLOOKED
HER?

THE KING
WILL NEVER
FORGIVE
US!



KING
VIRABHUJA
AND QUEEN
GUNAVARA
ARE HERE!



WHAT
SHALL WE
DO?

THE KING WAVED GUNAVARA
INTO THE ROOM.

MY QUEEN,
YOU HAVE FASTED
AND PRAYED FOR
THREE DAYS. MAY YOUR
DEVOTIONS MEET
WITH SPECIAL
SUCCESS.

HOW HE
DOTES
ON HER!





AS THE QUEENS, DREADING THE KING'S ANGER, HURRIED AWAY —



WHILE THE PHYSICIAN WAITED
FOR THE COOK TO ARRIVE—



THE COOK ARRIVED AND —



HIS PREDICTION PROVED TRUE.



WHAT SHALL WE NAME HIM ?

THE HORN IS WHAT GAVE HIM TO US. SO, WE SHALL CALL HIM SHRINGABHUA.

SHRINGABHUA BECAME THE UNQUESTIONED FAVOURITE OF THE KING. THE QUEENS WERE JEALOUS.



THE KING HAS NO EYES OR EARS FOR OUR SONS.

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON, THEY WILL HAVE NO SHARE IN HIS AFFECTIONS OR HIS KINGDOM.

AYASOLEKHA TOOK THE LEAD. SHE TALKED TO THE CHILDREN IN GROUPS, SPREADING HER JEALOUSY LIKE POISON.



THERE ARE NINETY-NINE OF YOU. IF YOU JOIN FORCES, SHRINGABHUA CANNOT WIN.

AND AS FOR GUNAVARA, I WILL SEE THAT SHE FALLS FROM GRACE.



*'SHRINGA' MEANS 'HORN'

THAT NIGHT,
WHEN THE KING
VISITED HER—

YOU ARE NOT
YOUR USUAL
SMILING SELF
WHAT'S WORRYING
YOU?

I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO SAY IT.
PROMISE YOU WON'T
BE ANGRY WITH ME.
ONLY THEN WILL
TELL YOU.

PROMISE
NOW, WHAT
IS IT?

MY LORD.
QUEEN
GUNAVARA

WHAT ABOUT
GUNAVARA?
WHY DO YOU
HESTATE?

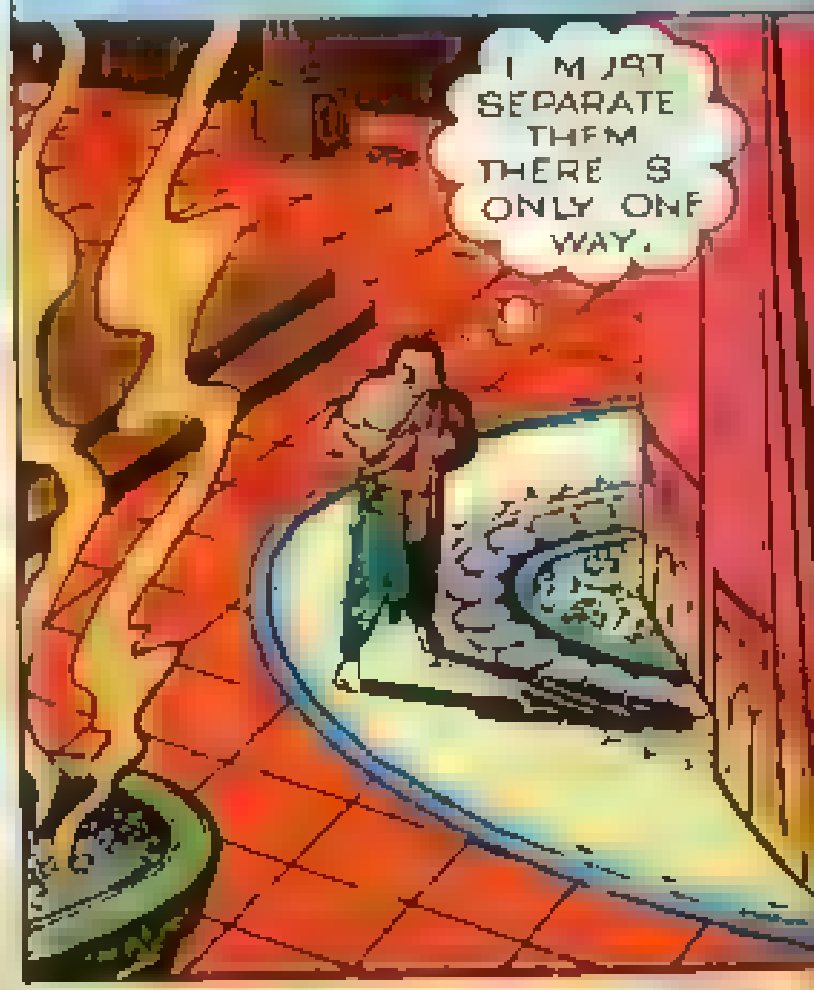
MY LORD,
TODAY IT IS
PALACE GOSSIP
TOMORROW
IT WILL BE
CITY GOSSIP
SHE IS
UNFAITHFUL



THE KING HAD LEFT—
ALMOST BEFORE SHE
FINISHED HER SENTENCE



THE KING PACED UP AND DOWN
IN HIS APARTMENT. HIS THOUGHTS
IN A FURIOUS TORMENT



RAKSHITA WAS SENT FOR. TO HIS
ER SURPRISE -

HEAR YOU
HAVE KILLED A
MAN. YOU MUST
ATONE FOR THIS
GRIEVOUS SIN
YOU MUST TRAVEL
TO THE HIMALAYAS
AND WASH AWAY
YOUR SINS IN
THE WATERS
OF THE HOLY
LAKES

THERE
MUST BE SOME
MISTAKE.
I HAVE NOT
KILLED
ANYONE!

BUT THE KING
ENDORSED HIS
PROTESTS

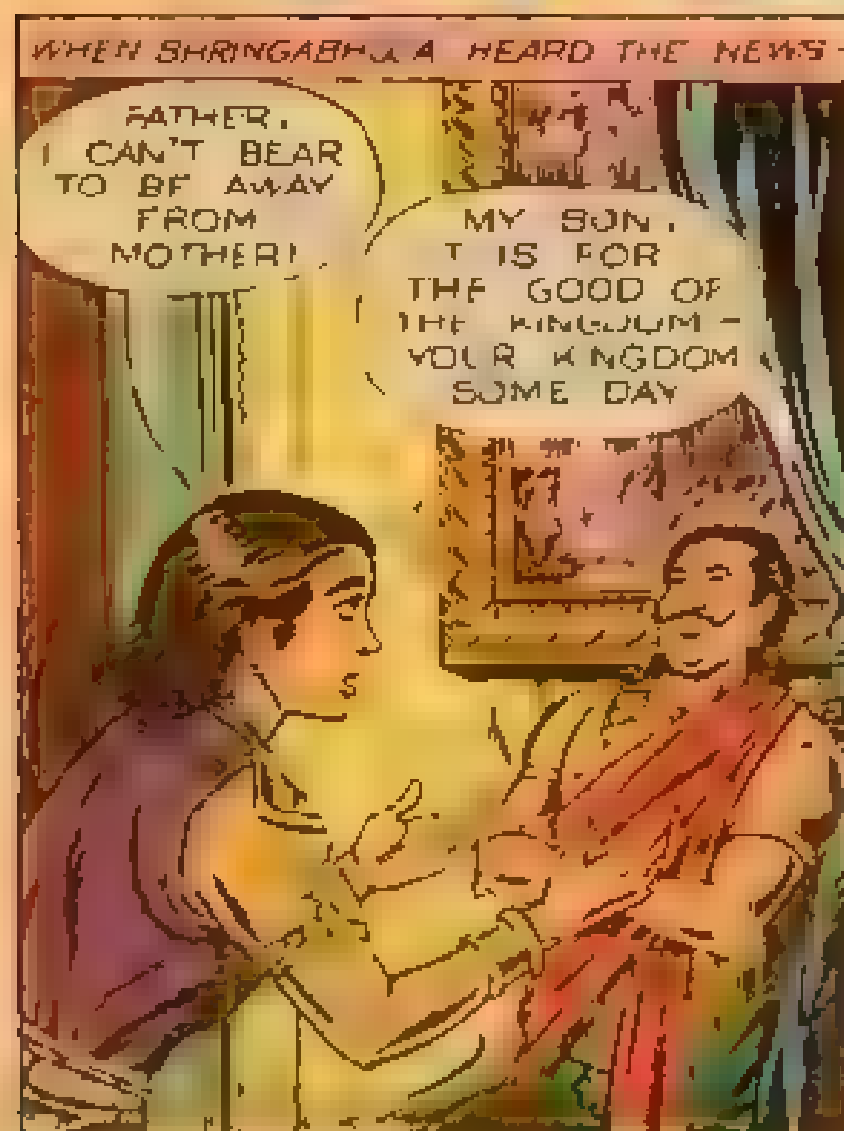
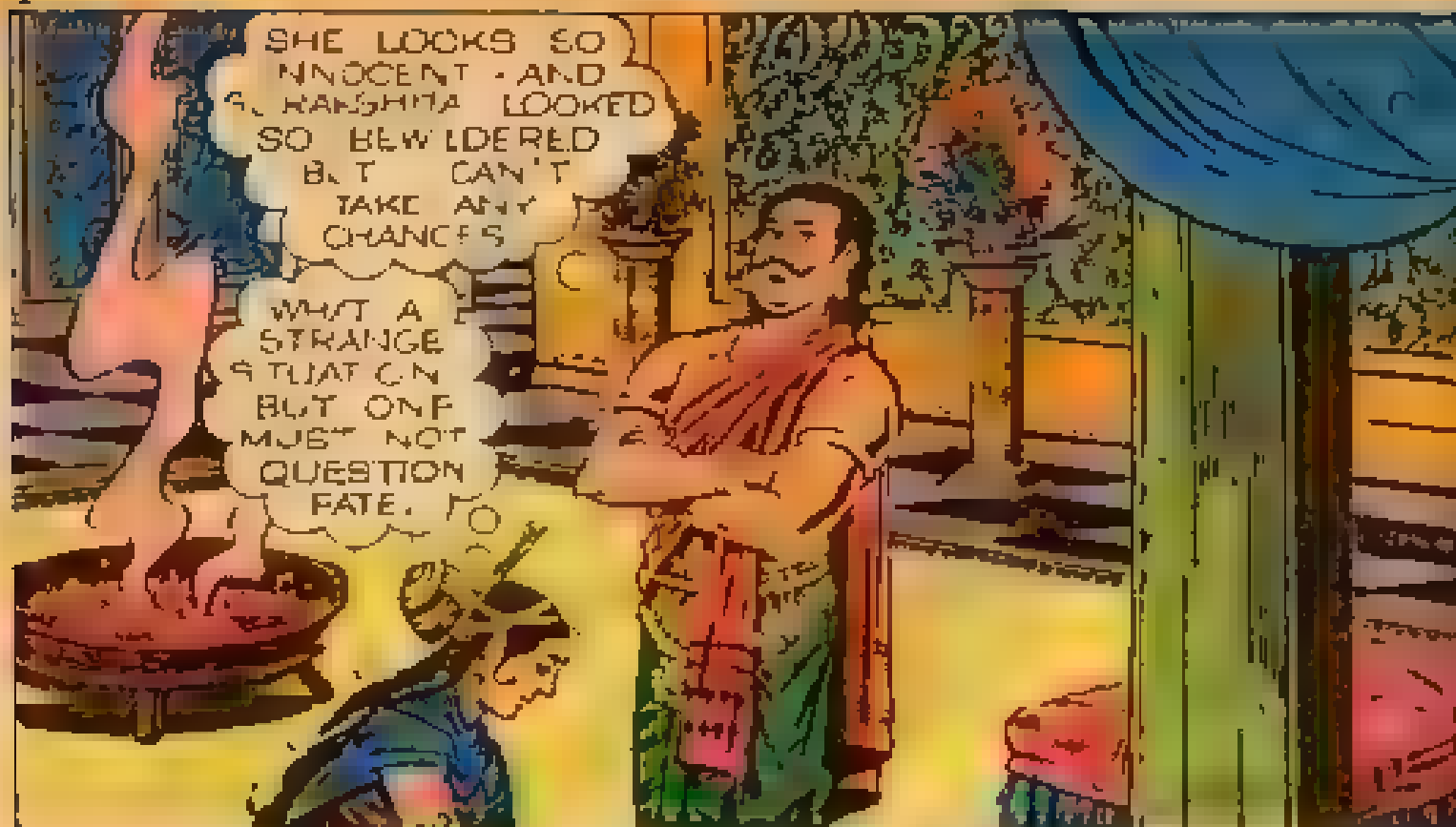
THAT GETS
RID OF HIM.
NOW, FOR
QUEEN
GUNAVARA,
THIS IS
NOT GOING
TO BE
EASY.

HE SENT FOR QUEEN
GUNAVARA.

MY LORD,
YOU
SEEM
VERY
DISTURBED

AM, MY DEAREST
THE ASTROLOGER
SAYS YOU SHOULD
BE IMPRISONED
FOR A YEAR.
FAILING THIS,
I WILL DIE AND
THE KINGDOM
COME TO
GRIEF.

IS THAT ALL,
MY LORD? PREPARE
THE DUNGEON AND
I SHALL GO INTO
IT ONLY TOO
WILLINGLY



THE OPPORTUNITY SOON AROSE.
THAT VERY EVENING —

LOOK!
A MAGNIFICENT
CRANE HE'S
FLYING QUITE
LOW TOO



A RABBITING MENDICANT
APPROACHED THEM

THAT IS NO
ORDINARY CRANE
IT IS AGNISH KHA,
THE RAKSHASA KING
IF YOU SHOOT HIM,
YOU WILL BE DOING
THE WORLD A
GOOD TURN



THE PRINCE'S SHOT AT THE
CRANE ONE BY ONE

WE'VE
ALL
MISSED

THE CRANE
IS STILL
CIRCLING



THE MENDICANT POINTED TO
SHRINGABHUA WHO WAS STANDING
A LITTLE APART

THAT YOUNG
BROTHER
OF YOURS
CAN DO IT,
I'M SURE.

SHRINGABHUA!
SHRINGABHUA!
EVEN THIS
WANDERING
MENDICANT
SINGLES HIM
OUT FOR
SPECIAL
ATTENTION



AND THEN AN IDEA, AS BRILLIANT AS IT WAS VICIOUS, STRUCK HIM

WAIT, SHRINGABHUA. GET FATHER'S GOLDEN ARROW. IT IS BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED AND FLIES STRAIGHT TO THE MARK.

WILL

THAT SHOULD FIX HIM. HE WILL HIT THE BIRD WHICH WILL DISAPPEAR WITH FATHER'S ARROW.

AND THEN HE WILL HAVE TO FACE FATHER'S WRATH

THE UNSUSPECTING SHRINGABHUA RETURNED WITH THE WEAPON, TOOK AIM AND SHOT AT THE BIRD

THE CRANE HAS FLOWN AWAY.

JUST AS I HAD PLANNED

WHAT DO WE DO ? WE DARE NOT FACE OUR FATHER YOU HAD BETTER BRING THE ARROW BACK

NEVER FEAR I WILL NOT REST TIL I DO SO



AND HE SET OFF

HE FELL INTO THE TRAP SO EASILY

HA HA!



SHRINGABHJJA FOLLOWED THE BIRD THE CRANE HAD LEFT A CLEAR TRAIL, FOR THERE WERE DROPS OF BLOOD ON THE EARTH

MY FIRST TASTE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD STRANGE, BUT I AM NOT AFRAID.



Quiz

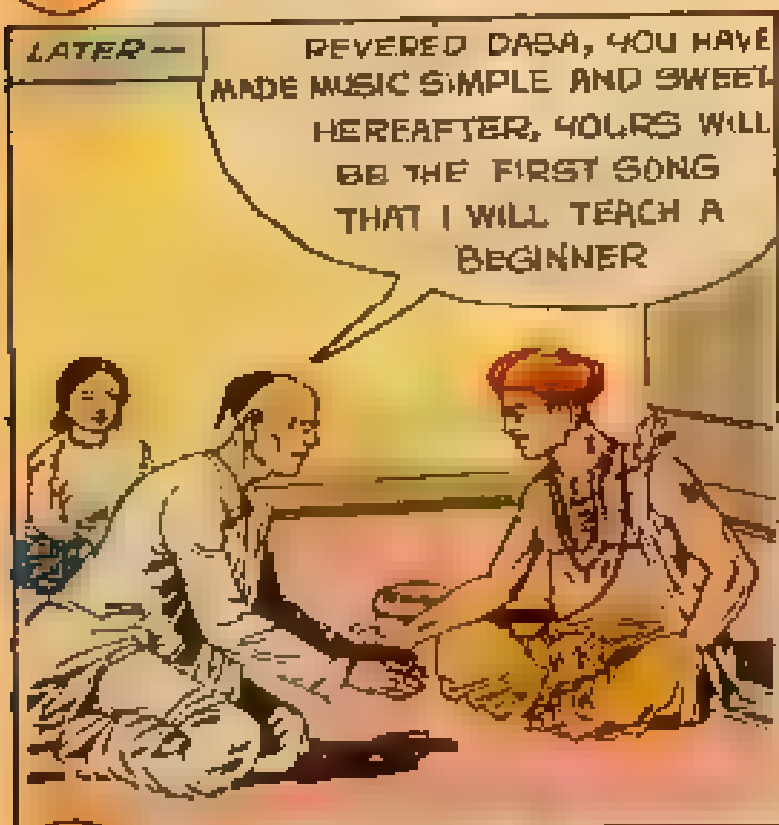
INDIA-6

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III

NAME THE THINGS SHOWN
IN THE ILLUSTRATION.

I IDENTIFY THE MEN.



II IDENTIFY THE SPEAKERS.



IV

WHO IS THIS GREAT KING?

HE CONSTRUCTED TWO BUILDINGS
WHICH WERE IN THE PRECINCTS OF THE PURANA
MATHA. ONE WAS A MOSQUE AND THE
OTHER WAS THE SHEER MANDAL.



V

FILL IN THE BLANK.

THE WALLS OF THE LOWEST, WHICH WAS
ON EARTH, WERE MADE OF IRON, THE
WALLS OF THE SECOND, WHICH WAS IN THE
HEAVENS, WERE MADE OF SILVER, AND THE WALLS OF THE
THIRD, WHICH WAS
IN HEAVEN, OF
GOLD.



RULES

1. Every entry must be accompanied with the coupon given on this page.
2. The first 50 all-correct entries received in our office will each receive 2 titles of Amar Chitra Katha.
3. Every correct entry will receive a green certificate.
4. Every one-error entry will receive a blue certificate.
5. Any participant who collects three green or six blue certificates till June 1987 will receive a free subscription of Amar Chitra Katha for six months.
6. Any participant who collects four green or eight or more blue certificates till June 1987 will receive a free subscription of Amar Chitra Katha for one year.
7. Any participant sending in five or more all-correct entries till June 1987 will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000. If there is more than one claimant the prize will be equally distributed among those who have sent five or more all-correct entries.
8. If we do not receive five all-correct entries from anyone till June 1987, the prize will be distributed among those who have sent in four all-correct entries.
9. The decision of the judges will be final and binding.
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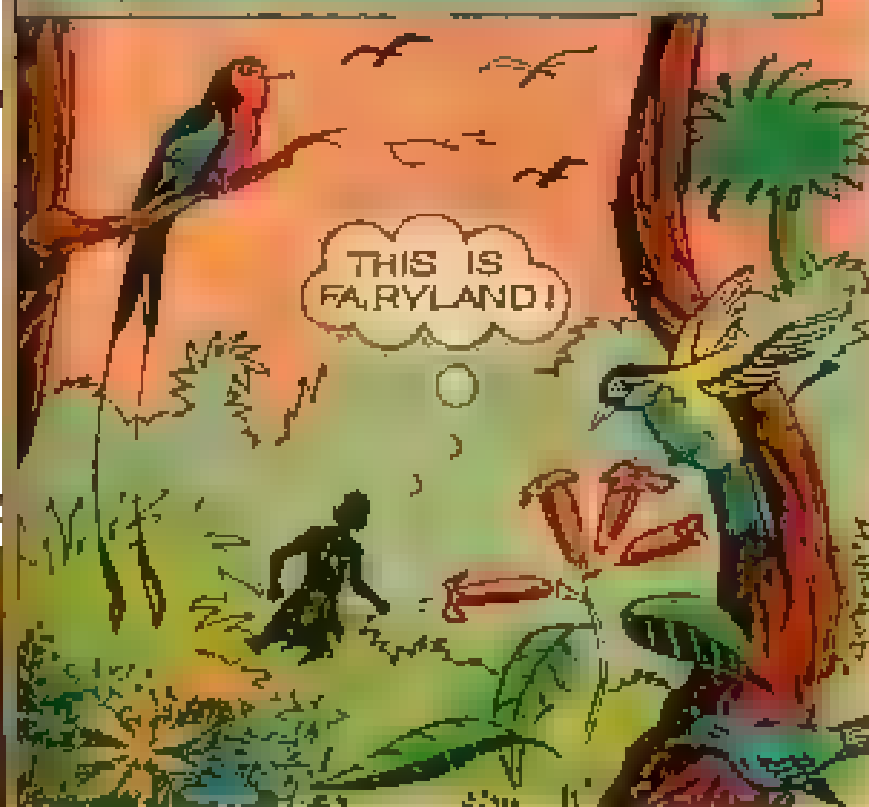
Giving Name Age Address Answers

Last date for receiving entries 30.4.1987

Answers to Quiz India-5

- Alexander should not have been shown wearing his helmet.
- These words were addressed to Parvati by Shiva for not paying attention to what he was saying.
- Kannappa removes his own eye to replace Shiva's.
- a. Pundarik b. Humayun
- Satyabhama.

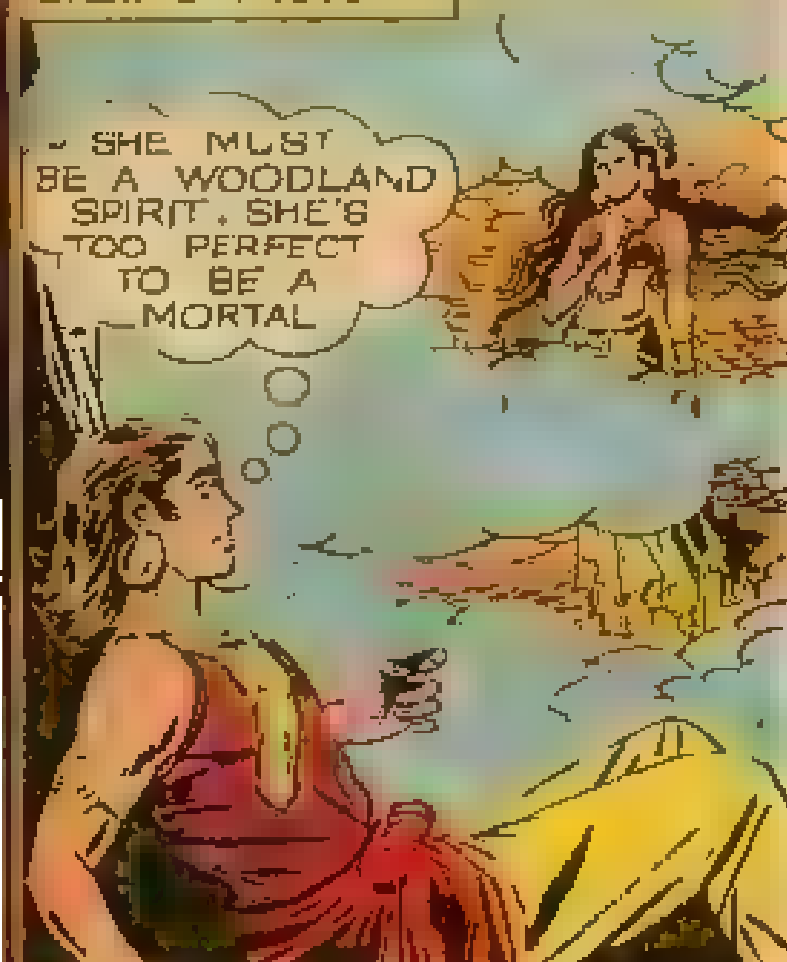
THE TRAIL STOPPED SUDDENLY AND HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A GARDEN CITY, AMIDST DENSE JUNGLE.



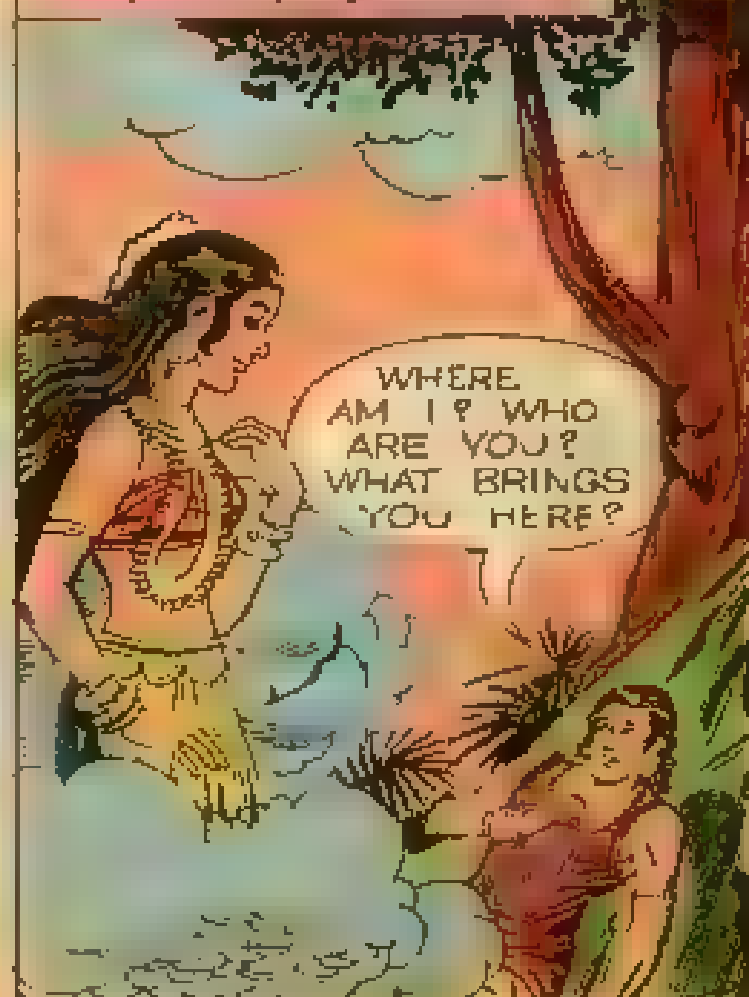
INDEED, IT WAS. THE TREES WERE ALIVE WITH SINGING BIRDS AND LADEN WITH SWEET-SMELLING FLOWERS



AND SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE EVENING MISTS —



AS SHE MOVED CLOSER



YOU ARE IN
DHUMAKA RA
AM RUDRAKHA.
DAUGHTER OF
A RUDRA

AGNISHIKHA
THE VERY
RAKSHASA
WHO, IN THE
FORM OF
A CRANE,
I HAVE
WOUNDED



BEFORE HE
JULIE SPEAK

I KNOW
OF YOUR
EXTRAORDINARY
SKILL IN ARCHERY
MY FATHER IS
NOT AN EASY
TARGET

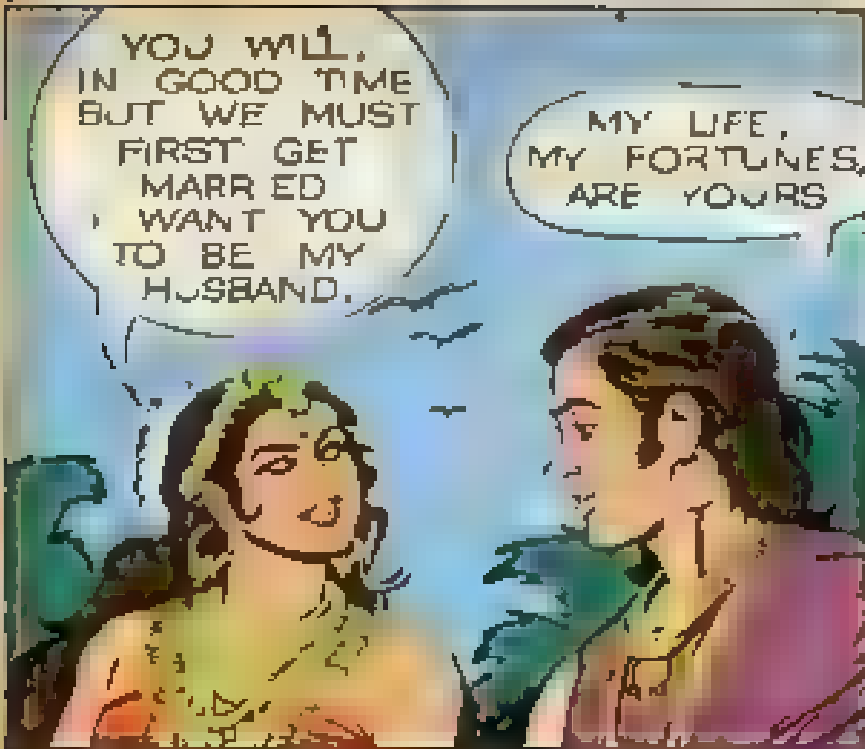


HE EVENING WOOD ON A RUDRAKHA A
OLD HER ALL THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN

MY FATHER
HAS BEEN NURSED
BY MAGIC HANDS
AND IS VERY WELL
THE ARROW IS
WITH THE - I
TOK A FATHER
TO

BUT
NOT
HAPPY
BACK





SHRINGABHUKA WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM, AND THE RAKSHASA WAS ALL SMILES

MY DAUGHTER
GIVE ME YOUR PROMISE
NEVER TO DISOBEY ME
AND NOW GO
HIDE, CHANGING
AND BE BACK
IN AN HOUR

VERY
WELL
SR

AND
RUPASHIKHA,
BRING YOUR
SISTERS
HERE

RUPASHIKHA
HID HERSELF
AND CAUGHT
UP WITH
SHRINGABHUKA

KNOW WHAT
FATHER HAS IN
MIND, WHEN YOU
COME, THERE WILL
BE A HUNDRED
WOMEN ALL ALIKE
YOU WILL BE
ASKED TO SINGLE
ME OUT

WHATEVER
WILL I
DO?

JUST LOOK
OUT FOR THE
ONE WITH A
GARLAND OVER
HER EARS.
THAT WILL
BE ME

WAS JUST AS BUSHY AND THE SEEDS WERE THE
 ANGRY AND ANGRY FEEL OF THE SEEDS

TAKE THE LOT
 OF SESAME SEEDS
 ALL HUNDRED BAGS
 OF THEM AND SOW
 THEM IN THE FIELD
 OUTSIDE THE
 TOWN.

YES
 SIR



THE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE
 THE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE
 THE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE

MAY HAVE
 TO USE MAGIC
 TO COMPLETE
 THE TASK BUT
 IT WILL BE
 DONE.



BUT THE BATTLE OF THE SEEDS
 WAS NOT OVER WHEN
 THE SEEDS WERE PLANTED

I'VE CHANGED
 MY MIND TO
 COLLECT ALL
 THE SOWN SEEDS
 AND PILE THEM
 UP AGAIN IN
 MY GRANARY

RUPASHIKHA CAME TO HIS RESCUE ONCE AGAIN.

EMER,
YOU ARMIES
OF ANTS
AND GET TO
WORK

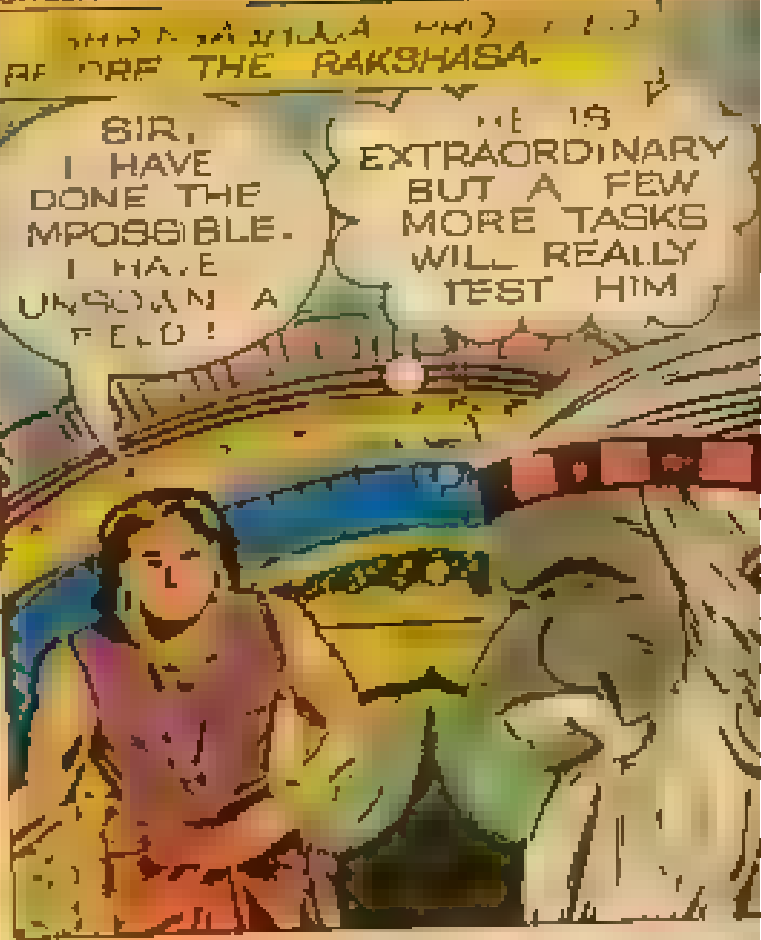
AND THE ANTS STARTED
ABOUT, COLLECTING THE
SEEDS WHICH.

SHR NGASHUJA WHO
BEFORE THE RAKSHASA.

SIR,
I HAVE
DONE THE
IMPOSSIBLE.
I HAVE
UNDOAN A
FIELD!

HE IS
EXTRAORDINARY
BUT A FEW
MORE TASKS
WILL REALLY
TEST HIM

JUST ONE
MORE ERRAND
BEFORE IT'S
IN AN ABANDONED
SHIVA TEMPLE
SOME MILES FROM
HERE GO AND
GET HIM FOR
YOUR WEDDING
TOMORROW



RUPASHIKHA WAS MORE THAN A
WATCH FOR HER SCOLDING FATHER

MY UNCLE
WILL TRY AND
KILL YOU
HERE-TAKE
THIS EARTH,
THIS
WATER ..

THESE
THORNS AND THIS
SMOULDERING FAGGOT
JUST KEEP THROWING
THESE BEHIND YOU
ONE BY ONE,
EACH TIME MY
UNCLE CATCHES UP
WITH YOU.

HE RODE RUPASHIKHA'S MAGIC HORSE WITH
THE SPEED OF WIND SOON, THE DESERTED
TEMPLE LOOMED BEFORE HIM, DARK AND MENACING

DIUMASHIKHA,
YOUR BROTHER
INVITES YOU TO
THE WEDDING OF
HIS DAUGHTER,
RUPASHIKHA.

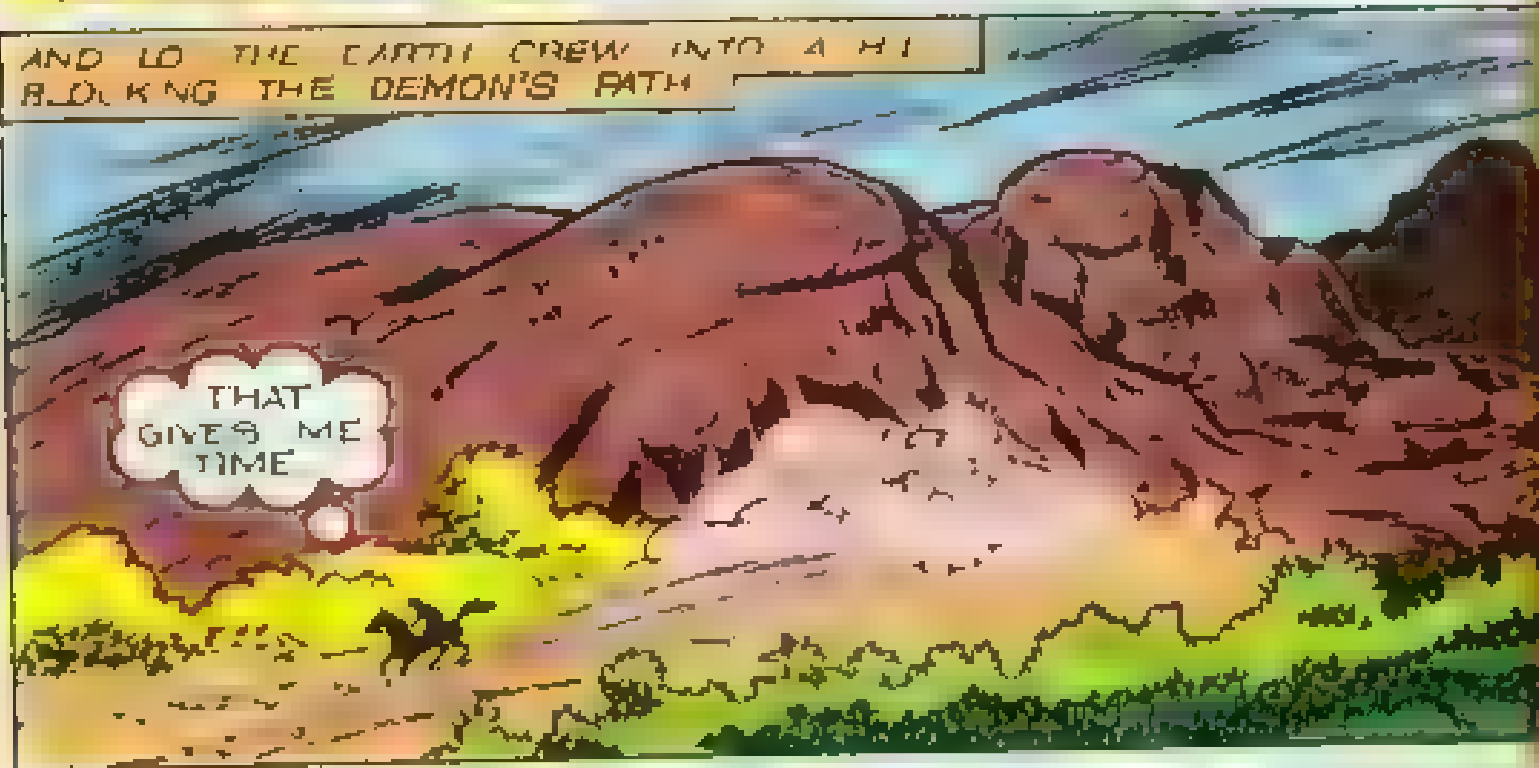
THAN, TURNING HIS HORSE HE FLEET,
URGING IT TO GO FASTER, EVER FASTER

THERE COMES
THE OLD DEMON
LET ME THROW
THE EARTH IN
HIS PATH



AND LO THE EARTH CREW INTO A HILL
BLOCKING THE DEMON'S PATH

THAT
GIVES ME
TIME



A LITTLE FARTHER ON—

THERE'S
LIFE IN THE
OLD DEVIL
YET



AND HE SPRINKLED THE
WATER BEHIND HIM...

WHICH INSTANTLY
BECAME A HUGE
RIVER, EDDYING
AND SWIRLING
BEHIND HIM

I'M NEARER
HOME NOW, BUT
STILL NOT OUT
OF DANGER

TWICE MORE HE
BLOCKED THE
DEMON'S PATH—
ONCE WITH
THE THORNS..

THIS
THORN JUNGLE
WILL TEAR HIM
APART

..AND FINALLY WITH THE FAGGOT WHICH
SET THE SURROUNDING TREES ABLAZE

I'M GOING BACK
THIS HUMAN BEING
IS TOO MUCH
HARD WORK. I'LL
JUST WAIT FOR
ANOTHER
ONE TO
COME
ALONG

AND HE WENT BACK, LEAVING SHRINGAJHWA
FREE TO RETURN, TRIUMPHANT

AS SHRINGABHUA GALLOPED HOME

THIS IMPOSSIBLE MAN! HOW DID HE ESCAPE MY BROTHER?

WELL DONE. NOW, YOU MAY MARRY MY DAUGHTER.

THE NEXT DAY THEY WERE MARRIED A MONTH HAD PASSED

RUPASHIKHA, WE MUST GET BACK TO VARDHAMANA

THAT MEANS ANOTHER BATTLE OF WITS WITH MY FATHER

HOW DO WE DO IT?

JUST DON'T ANNOUNCE YOUR INTENTIONS. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A QUICK AND QUIET EXIT.

THE NEXT DAY -

WE'RE GOING OUT FOR THE DAY INTO THE FOREST.

VERY WELL, PRINCESS.

HAVE
YOU TAKEN
THE GOLDEN
ARROW?

YES — AND
ALL MY
JEWELS. AND
WITH ME
COMES
THE RIGHT
TO HALF THE
KINGDOM.

THERE
COMES
MY FATHER
ON HIS
FLYING
HORSE.
I CAN FEEL
THE AIR
RUSTLE.

WHAT
NOW?

SHE USED HER POWERS
TO MAKE HIM AND THE
HORSE INVISIBLE ...

...DISGUISED HERSELF
AS A WOODCUTTER...

...AND JOINED A WOODCUTTER WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE. SOON—

DID YOU SEE A YOUNG COUPLE PASS THIS WAY?

WE SAW NO ONE. WE HAVE BEEN CUTTING WOOD ALL DAY— FOR KING AGNISHIKHA'S FUNERAL PYRE.



WHAT! ME, DEAD? I MUST RUSH HOME TO CHECK

MY FOOLISH FATHER!



AND SHE JOINED SHRINGABHUJA—

SURELY, HE MUST REALIZE HE'S NOT DEAD.

RAKSHAGAS ARE BIG AND FOOLISH.



AGNISHIKHA WAS SOON BACK. THIS TIME RUPASHIKHA WAS IN THE GUISE OF A MESSENGER.

DID YOU SEE A MAN AND A WOMAN GO BY?

NO, BUT THEN I AM SO FULL OF MY OWN SORROW I DON'T SEE ANYTHING. I'M CARRYING A MESSAGE— KING AGNISHIKHA IS ILL AND DYING.





HE PLED HER
WITH WINE.

COME,
DRINK, MY
QUEEN.



SOON SHE WAS
ASLEEP — AND
MUMBLING.

GUNAVARA,
IF YOU WERE
NOT IN THAT
DUNGEON,
WOULD THE
KING BE
HERE?

AHA!
THE
WITCH.



THE KING ACTED
QUICKLY. HE FREED
GUNAVARA,
RELATING ALL
THAT HAD
HAPPENED.

THE WITCHES!
I'LL IMPRISON
THE LOT.

FORGIVE
THEM, MY
LORD.



THE NEXT DAY, SHRINGABHUJA WAS
ANointed CROWN PRINCE AND ALL
WAS WELL IN THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD
OF VARDHAMANA ONCE AGAIN.

GOD
BLESS YOU,
MY SON.

